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## THE FIELD AND FOREST CLUB OF BOSTON

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BY G. W. LEE AND L. G. HOWES,  
Boston, Mass.

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"The study of nature as a means of culture in good citizenship" is, according to a clause in its constitution, the object of the Field and Forest Club, and within this broad range come many and varied activities. Though the title and the avowed purpose are both suggestive of the scope, we can hardly know the club without knowing a little of its history.

The preliminary meeting was on the evening of February 1, 1904, when not only were aims and objects discussed and a committee appointed to frame a constitution, but there was an illustrated lecture given, in order that the gathering of that very night might feel itself a working organization. The charter members included, as at present, young and old, physicians, lawyers, ministers, teachers, photographers, householders and their children, campers, trampers and some scientific men and women—there being no restrictions as to sex, sect or age. Later it was decided that none younger than 17 should be eligible to membership.

The club is composed of those whose tastes lead them to outdoor pleasures and the study of nature. The object of the society is being realized through the development of a sense of civic responsibility.

A prospective member must sign an application card on which two members recommend him or her over their own signatures, and must pay \$1. If the Council at its next session, and the club at open meeting, vote favorably on the application, the new member receives a notice to that effect, the constitution and the current *Calendar*.

A glance at the "Year Book," published in 1906, which still holds good, shows the proportion of events. The topics of the monthly public meetings during 1904 included birds, butterflies, shells, mines, the Pueblo Boy, the Deerfield Valley, trees, leguminous plants, and exhibitions of fruit, flowers and vegetables and photographs. The evening events regularly occurring on the second

Monday of the month are but one phase of club activities. The most characteristic feature of the *Field and Forest Calendar* is the Saturday outing, a weekly event the year around. The first to be listed was on March 26, 1904, a visit to the Charles River Basin and Hemlock Gorge, with a geological student in charge. The "Year Book" shows a succession of tramps to the seashore, the hills and woodlands of the vicinity of Boston, with now and then a trip to some scene of local history. To those who live in this vicinity the mere titles will suggest the treatment of the trips, but to the reader from elsewhere it should be said that the Saturday trips are conducted by club members, or, not infrequently, by others intimate with some special topic or locality connected with the trip.

The *Calendar*, or working program, has for several years been issued quarterly. That for the last three months of 1909 was revised and reissued for distribution at the "Boston 1915"<sup>1</sup> Exposition, where the club had an exhibit. On this was stated what the Field and Forest Club stands for; recommendations for civic improvement, such as preservation of viewpoints, tree labeling, establishment of children's museum, brief excursion guidebook, etc.; the usual quarterly list of nature books for reading, besides the regular notice of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's exhibits. The forty-two events for the first three months of 1910, as compared with the seventeen or eighteen of the same months in 1906, show an increase in number and diversity commensurate with the growth in membership. One may ask, Do you not offer too much and tend to discourage some members from taking active part? Yes and no. A few have desired a small club in which all should know one another and all attend substantially every event; others, looking at it more impersonally, have aspired to take in all the events, but have seen that in growing to be a large organization we may have circles within circles, and ramify from a central body to district or topical groups.

The *Calendar* for January-March, 1910, is appended to this paper. A discussion of it will indicate the club's activities.

January 1. New Year's Outing at Bungalow. This notice suggests several points to be explained. The Bungalow, though not the property of the club, is the enterprise of club members. It was built almost entirely by volunteers, and is managed as though

<sup>1</sup>To learn the significance of the "Boston 1915" movement address "Boston 1915" Committee, 6 Beacon Street, Boston.

it were the property of the club. On two Saturdays of each month it is open to stockholders, while it may be rented by members of the club at any other time. The Bungalow is situated on Lake Pequit, in Canton, some twelve miles from the center of the city, and is a spot much prized by visitors for its natural scenery—trees, shrubs, birds and a beautiful sheet of water. Note that the costs incidental to the outings are stated. This is characteristic.

January 3. Council Meeting. The Council is the executive board, having the administration of the affairs of the club. Twelve of the councillors for 1910 are men and five women, somewhat inversely the proportion of men to women in the club.

January 5. Old Nuremburg and the Germanic Museum. A feature of the present *Calendar* is the Wednesday evening series of class meetings, answering the demand for formal organization and regularity of meetings for study. Travel talks is the general topic for the first Wednesday of each month.

January 8. Lawley's Shipyard. In the winter season Saturday trips are frequently made to places accessible in weather not suited to country walks.

January 10. Open Meeting: A Trip to Alaska, illustrated by stereopticon. The public monthly meetings offer an interesting lecture besides allowing time for club business. The lectures, as well as the Round Table Talks, afford opportunity for the club to extend its hospitality. The experiment of meeting at the Boston Public Library is now being tried. It means a packed audience, for the library attracts many people of the lecture-going habit.

But one of the avowed purposes of the society is community service; and the change means the probability of more rapid growth than ever before and transition from a "social" to a "sociological" organization—to use the term loosely—from a club to an association. In short, it means a time when the club is rapidly making its history, so that its picture of to-day may be decidedly different from that a year hence.

January 12. Boston Parks and Viewpoints. Tree study is the topic of the second Wednesdays; and this kindred subject is not inappropriate. Much of our park system is an arborway, and there is hope of the club's issuing, ere long, a booklet on the trees and shrubs of the Parkway for five miles, from the Public Garden to the Arnold Arboretum, "that Mecca of tree lovers," as

J. Horace MacFarland calls it in his "Getting Acquainted With the Trees."

Closely associated with parks are viewpoints, and to preserve these, which are diminishing in number with the growth of the population, is one of the active interests of the club. To this end a petition was drawn up for signature and exhibited by the club at the recent "Boston 1915" Exposition. There is every hope of this petition proving successful, and if so, the event will in all probability mark the beginning of what may strictly be called "civic betterment" work on the part of the Field and Forest Club.

January 15. Trip to Little Nahant for "Shore Water Birds," followed by

January 19. Round Table Study of "Shore Birds," the first meeting of the year of the Wednesday bird classes, which should lead up to bird walks in April and May, the migrating season. Little Nahant has the attraction of the seacoast, and it was here that two Saturday afternoon trips were made for introductory lessons in hydroids, sea anemones and other life in the tide pools. Further opportunities to study ebb tide zoölogy will probably be offered by the spring and summer *Calendars*.

January 20. Formation of Camera Club. There are many photographers in the club who exhibit their work each year, in October. Three meetings on photography, that included developing, printing and a general talk, comprised the course of the preceding quarter; and this formation of a camera club should mean the beginning of collections of photographs taken on the trips, besides a good deal of photographic work in the interests of the various classes and committees.

January 22. Country Tramp, in two of the most attractive of our suburbs, Weston and Wellesley, which, accompanied by snowshoeing and followed by a campfire supper, will prove a typical winter event. An announcement on the *Calendar* arranges for snowshoe trips at short notice and calls for the telephone numbers and addresses of those who wish to be notified.

January 24. Skating. It is customary to have an outdoor evening event each month, about the time of the full moon. It is usually a moonlight walk; but skating is naturally chosen for this time of year.

January 26. Class in Minerals, followed by lessons on Rocks

and Soils, on the fourth Wednesdays of February and March. The continuation of a series of geological talks on the preceding *Calendar*, which will naturally lead to geological or physiographical trips in the spring.

January 29. Spot Pond to Pine Banks. A cross-country walk, typical of the Saturday trips at any time of the year. This one is in the Middlesex Fells region, part of our Metropolitan Park System, which nearly surrounds Boston, and will by "1915" very likely afford a continuous parkway, widening for long intervals into extensive woodlands, from north shore to south shore, within a radius of ten miles from the heart of the city.

January 31. Nature in Art. A course of social conversation meetings, held at the home of two of our members, whose long years of foreign travel prepare them to enrich our program with studies from Boston Art Museum; works of English painters; the French school, and other related topics.

February 1. Annual Reunion. The principal social features are the annual reception, Christmas festivities and occasional suppers, followed by addresses. These functions have frequently been held in the Twentieth Century Club Building.

February 2. Canoeing on the Susquehanna. Travel talk by experienced canoeist, whose camera has noted remarkable landscapes and sites of exceptional interest for historical and literary associations.

February 5. Museum of Fine Arts. One of Boston's newest sights and a suitable place to visit in winter.

February 7. Council Meeting. A fixture for the first Monday of each month, as noted under January 3.

February 9. Work of Massachusetts Forestry Association. The second of the tree meetings, affording an opportunity for the speaker, secretary of that organization, to show wherein the Field and Forest Club may co-operate in the work of the Forestry Association.

February 12. Historical Walk No. 6 (Somerville). This series of historical walks began in November, 1908, being confined mostly to places associated with the War of the Revolution.

February 14. Impressions of South America illustrated by stereopticon. Open meeting. Second Monday.

February 16. Winter Birds. For the entire series of Round

Table Classes the Boston Public Library furnishes most valuable books, maps, plates and pictures.

February 18. Nature in Art. This course attracts numbers and calls out enthusiasm beyond our anticipations.

February 19. Stony Brook Reservation. Like the Middlesex Fells, this reservation is part of our Metropolitan Park System. Though much smaller, it is equally attractive in its own way.

February 22. Field Day at Bungalow. Washington's Birthday, the only holiday of this quarter. The Bungalow is a favorite rendezvous on holidays. At all seasons of the year it is a fine experiment station for nature students.

February 23. Rocks. This class is led by an eminent geologist, and illustrated by specimens and plates.

February 26. Valley of Noanett Brook. A typical country tramp, especially appreciated by the snowshoers.

February 28. Identification of Shrubs. Anticipating spring walks, when the succession of flowering shrubs in the Arnold Arboretum makes a glorious display; and week-end trips to Uncanoonuc Mountain, where, in its season, the mountain laurel is unrivalled.

March 2. Glimpses of the Philippines. The third of the travel series. The leader will show weapons, tools, costumes, and pictures of home and street life.

March 5. Peabody and Agassiz Museums, for the study of special animal types. These great collections have been frequent objective points during inclement weather. They are appreciated by the club in connection with class work. The famous "glass flowers" are at the Agassiz Museum.

March 7. Council Meeting. First Monday.

March 9. Trees in Winter; resuming the class work taken up in the preceding months, and anticipating tree walks in the spring. The following note appeared on the *Calendar* as issued: "The Tree Talk of March 9 is the fourth of the series that began in October. No special preparation, however, will be required; but a circular, outlining a limited amount of preliminary investigation or study, is to be sent a few weeks before the meeting to those who signify an interest in the subject. It is hoped that the tree interests will be an important feature of the club in the immediate future. At present the work consists largely in gaining the ability to identify

our common trees at all seasons of the year. Some tree census work has been done in the streets of Dorchester, and statistical results are recorded in the "Year Book" of 1906.

March 12. Newton Highlands to Riverside. Like the tramp of January 22, this ends with a campfire supper, a somewhat novel feature.

March 14. Unfamiliar Holland. Regular open meeting; lecture illustrated with the reflectoscope, by which pictures, postcards, and illustrations from books, as well as lantern slides, may be thrown on the screen.

March 16. Birds; new arrivals from the South, anticipating the spring migrations.

March 19. Waverly Oaks and Beaver Brook Reservation. These ancient trees stand in one of the smallest, but most accessible, reservations of the Metropolitan Park System.

Same day. Fifteen-mile walk. An alternative to the above trip, and listed with a view to ascertaining, among other things, who are the real walkers of the club.

March 22. Moonlight Walk. A feature of nearly every month, and enjoyed by many who are not free for tramps on Saturday afternoons.

March 23. Soils. The leader, an expert scientist, has given the club summer field lessons on Nahant rocks, Nantasket beach and the Blue Hills.

March 24. Parkways and Viewpoints; especially the unfrequented roads northwest of Boston, and elevations from which beautiful views of ocean may be obtained.

March 26. Edison Plant. Visit to a central electric lighting station. Sixth anniversary of the first Saturday outing on the club's record.

March 28. Nature in Art. The French school.

March 30. Microscopy. To be followed by a series on microscopy in the next *Calendar*.

Week-end trips to seashore or mountain, very popular in some seasons, are not listed in this quarter.

After thus reviewing the activities of the society, one may ask, What is the spirit of the members, and what is the club likely to stand for in the immediate future?



The Saturday afternoon walks are the backbone of its existence; but some members find restful diversion in lectures; others seek refreshment in study; still others gain strength in working for reform. It has been shown that the club program meets the varying needs of different members. The degree of satisfaction felt by these members and the effectiveness of the club work depend, of course, upon good management of the general scheme and able leadership in each event.

We have said that recommendations for civic betterment are likely to appear on future programs; for instance, members may urge the establishment of a children's museum in Franklin Park, and the institution of student-guides in public reservations, as docents are already established in art museums and as aids in public libraries.

But enthusiasts must not transgress by coercing club energies toward this or that reform. It is a privilege, not a duty, to take part in any club appointment; and if activity in any measure were forced upon the members, the society would fail of being the recreative organization the majority desire.

The program of events connects club work with nature-lovers at many points. It presents a feasible plan for country, as well as city communities, as it is capable of providing a working basis for social union among the members of small and separate circles in villages needing a center of educational and social activity for all the towns people.

The mission of such a club is to study, appreciate and develop the natural resources of its homeland; and it will find its province, purpose and methods of procedure modified, from time to time, till it settles into shape.

## FIELD AND FOREST CLUB.

JANUARY-MARCH, 1910.

*N. B.—Trips are on Saturdays, when the day of week is not noted; evening meetings in Fine Arts Department, Boston Public Library, 8 P. M., when not otherwise noted.*

*The Round Table Class Meetings assigned for Wednesday evenings are a somewhat new departure. It is to be noted that each general subject has its regular Wednesday, viz: Travel Talks, first Wednesday; Trees, second; Birds, third; Geology, fourth; Microscopy, fifth (March). Books on Subjects*

*Allied to the Wednesday Evening Class Work will be found on table in the Fine Arts Department, Boston Public Library, marked Field and Forest Club.*

JANUARY.

1. *New Year's Outing* at Bungalow, Pleasant Street, Canton. Skating and snowshoeing under favorable conditions. Take 2.33 p. m. car from Mattapan Square. Bring lunch; only coffee furnished, 5 cents. Entrance fee, 10 cents. Bring rubbers. Fares, 24 cents.  
Mr. Wm. P. Edwards, Miss Helen Lancaster.
3. (Monday). Council Meeting.
5. (Wednesday). *Old Nuremburg and the Germanic Museum.*  
Marie Ada Molineux, Ph. D.
8. Visit to *Lawley's Ship Yard*, South Boston. Meet at Brown's Drug Store, 701 Broadway, corner K Street, South Boston, at 2.30 p. m. (Take any Broadway, City Point car.) Ten cents.  
Miss H. F. Holmes.
10. (Monday). Open meeting. *A Trip to Alaska.* (Stereopticon.) Boston Public Library Lecture Hall. Enter on Boylston Street.  
Mr. Charles A. Stone.
12. (Wednesday). *Boston Parks and View Points.*  
Miss Gertrude Howes.
15. Trip to *Little Nahant*, for Shore and Water Birds. Leave B. R. B. & L. Station, Atlantic Avenue, Boston, at 1.35 p. m. for Lynn. Meet leader at Boston and Maine Railroad Station, Lynn, outward platform, at 2.15 p. m. Leader from Norfolk Bird Club.
19. (Wednesday). *Shore Birds.* Miss Frances Zirngiebel.
20. (Thursday). *Formation of Camera Club.* Beginners may join.  
Mr. A. H. Chamberlin.
22. *Country Tramp, Norumbega*, Doublet Hill, Weston Reservoir, Wellesley Farms. Five-mile walk. (Wear heavy shoes.) Meet at Boylston Street Subway, southbound electrics for Norumbega, 2 p. m. Bring lunch. Campfire and hot coffee at 6 o'clock. (Take snowshoes if practicable.) Twenty-five cents.
24. (Monday). *Skating.* Meet corner Havard Street and Talbot Avenue, Dorchester, at 7.30 p. m. Mr. Henrik Renstrom.
26. (Wednesday). *Minerals.* Dr. B. F. McDaniel.
29. Cross country from *Spot Pond to Pine Banks.* Take 2 p. m. car for Spot Pond, from lower level, Sullivan Square. Four miles. Ten cents.  
Mr. Vernon Field.
31. (Monday). *Nature in Art.* Studies from Boston Art Museum. Meet with Mrs. Mosher, 107 Howland Street, Roxbury.

FEBRUARY.

2. (Wednesday). *Canoeing on the Susquehanna.*  
Dr. Chauncey Morris Carpenter.
5. *Boston Museum of Fine Arts.* Meet at entrance to Museum, Huntington Avenue, Boston, at 2.15 p. m. Mrs. F. F. Farwell.

7. (Monday). Council Meeting.
9. (Wednesday). *Work of Massachusetts Forestry Association*. 3 Joy Street. 8 P. M. Mr. Irving T. Guild.
12. *Historical Walk No. 6*. Prospect and Central Hills, Somerville, Mass. Meet Sullivan Square, upper level, south platform, 2 P. M. Ten cents. Miss A. B. Drowne.
14. (Monday). Open meeting. *Impressions of South America*. (Stereopticon.) Boston Public Library Lecture Hall. Enter on Boylston Street. Mr. Thomas Barbour.
16. (Wednesday). *New England Winter Birds*. Miss Frances Zirngiebel.
18. (Friday). *Nature in Art*. Works of English Painters. Meet with Mrs. Mosher, 107 Howland Street, Roxbury.
19. Tramp through *Stony Brook Reservation*, West Roxbury, Mass. Meet at Boston Elevated Railway Terminal, Forest Hills, lower level, 2 P. M. Ten cents. Miss F. L. Moffitt.
22. (Tuesday). *Field Day at Bungalow*. Cars leave Mattapan half hourly, starting at 1.33 P. M. Bring lunch. Soup and coffee furnished at small expense. Fares, 24 cents. Social Committee.
23. (Wednesday). *Rocks*. Dr. B. F. McDaniel.
26. *Valley of Noanett Brook*. Meet at South Station Waiting Room, "Plymouth," at 2 P. M. 2.12 P. M. train to Charles River Village. Five miles. Bring lunch. Wear old clothes and stout shoes. Take snowshoes, snow permitting. (Get tickets of leader.) About 45 cents. Mr. H. S. Upham.
28. (Monday). *Identification of Common New England Shrubs*. Miss M. W. Howard.

## MARCH.

2. (Wednesday). *Glimpses of the Philippines*. Mrs. Wm. Vernon Wolcott.
5. *Peabody and Agassiz Museums*, Cambridge, Mass. Special types of animal life. Meet Harvard Square, Boston Elevated Waiting Room, at 2.15 P. M. Miss Gertrude Howes.
7. (Monday). Council Meeting.
9. (Wednesday). *Trees in Winter*. Mr. G. W. Lee.
12. Road walk *Newton Highlands to Riverside*, ending at Riverside Recreation Grounds with campfire and basket supper. Meet Park Square, Boston, in season to take Boston and Worcester car at 2 P. M. About 25 cents. Mr. Joseph Rowe.
14. (Monday). Open meeting. *Unfamiliar Holland*. (Reflectoscope.) Parish Rooms, Church of the Advent, Brimmer Street. Rev. Wm. H. Van Allen, D. D.
16. (Wednesday). *Birds*. New arrivals from the South. Miss Frances Zirngiebel.

19. (a) *Waverly Oaks, Beaver Brook Reservation*. Meet southbound, Park Street, Subway platform, 1.45 P. M. Ten cents.  
Miss Bertha Randall.
- (b) *Fifteen-mile Walk*. Meet at same time and place.  
Mr. G. W. Lee.
22. (Tuesday). *Moonlight Walk*, Winchester to West Medford, via Mystic Parkway. Meet North Station Information Bureau, in time for 7.14 P. M. train. (Buy ticket to Winchester, 15 cents.) Two miles.  
Twenty cents. Mr. E. Minot Talbot.
23. (Wednesday). *Soils*. Dr. B. F. McDaniel.
24. (Thursday). *Parkways and View Points*. Mr. John S. Edmands.
26. Inspection of the *Edison Electric Illuminating Company's Plant*, "L" Street, South Boston, Mass. If pleasant, meet in South Station Waiting Room, "Plymouth," at 2 P. M. If stormy, meet at Brown's Drug Store, 701 Broadway, corner "K" Street, at 2.30 P. M. Ten cents.  
Mr. C. C. Littlefield.
28. (Monday). *Nature in Art*. French School. Meet with Mrs. Mosher, 107 Howland Street, Roxbury.
30. (Wednesday). *Microscopy*. Mr. S. S. Bradford.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

*Massachusetts Horticultural Society Exhibits, Horticultural Hall, 300 Massachusetts Avenue (corner Huntington Avenue).*

- (1) Free Exhibition of Photographs of Chinese Plants, Animals and Scenery, for two weeks ending Sunday, January 9, 10 A. M. to 4 P. M.
- (2) Exhibition of Plants, Flowers, Fruits, Vegetables, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, February 26-28.

#### BOOKS FOR READING.

*A Rambler's Lease*, Bradford Torrey.

*Bird Life*, Frank M. Chapman.

*In American Fields and Forests*, Thoreau, Burroughs and others.

*Curiosities of the Sky*, G. P. Serviss.

*Evolution of Worlds*, Percival Lowell.

*Our National Parks*, John Muir.

*The Lay of the Land*, Dallas Lore Sharp.

*Annual Reunion* to be announced later.

Information regarding club affairs may be obtained of Miss Ethel M. Kimball, 227 Ashmont Street, Dorchester, Mass.